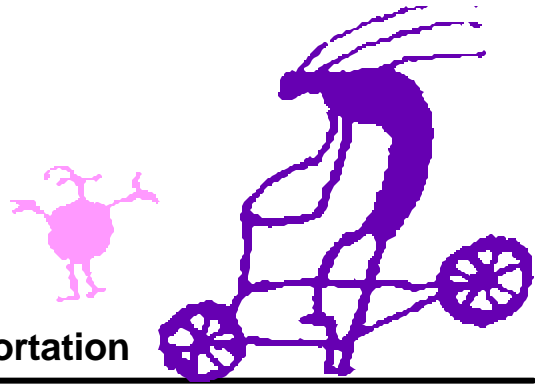


# By-Cycle

Bicycle News from the  
Maricopa County Department of Transportation



February 2000

Volume 1:2

## Legislative Issues

There are two bills currently working their way through the Arizona State Legislature that affect cyclists. HB2546 will require all cyclists 18 years old and younger to wear helmets.

HB2625 mandates that motorists allow a safe distance between their vehicle and a cyclist they are overtaking. It specifies a width of five feet at speeds over 40 mph and three feet at speeds below 40 mph.

For complete texts of these and other bills introduced, go to ALIS on-line.

<http://www.azleg.state.az.us/>

## Public Input Wanted on Comprehensive Plan



The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors will be hitting the Arizona trail visiting your community and gathering your input and suggestions regarding accelerated growth affecting the Southwest quality of life that we have come to accept and expect. They are looking for your comments on quality of life issues such as open space preservation, responsible development, and environmental impacts. The Maricopa County Comprehensive Plan, Eye to the Future 2020, is our key to responsible growth and continued prosperity. Check out the web page at [www.maricopa.gov](http://www.maricopa.gov) under "Planning & Development", "Comprehensive Plan Update."

## Meetings

### February 2000

#### Public Meeting Schedule

The public meeting schedule is subject to change. Please call to confirm dates and times. For on-line information go to: [www.maricopa.gov](http://www.maricopa.gov).

#### 2.15.2000

##### Comp Plan 2000 Public Meeting District 2, Don Stapley

Location: Mountainside Middle School  
11256 N. 128<sup>th</sup> St  
Scottsdale, AZ  
Time: 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
Contact: Matthew Holm 602.506.7162

#### 2.16.2000

##### Comp Plan 2000 Public Meeting District 5, Mary Rose Wilcox

Location: Buckeye Community Center  
201 Centre  
Buckeye, Az,  
Time: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Contact: Matthew Holm 602.506.7162

#### 2.17.2000

##### Comp Plan 2000 Public Meeting District 1, Fulton Brock

Location: WGA Board Room  
5835 S. Sossaman Road  
Mesa, AZ  
Time: 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
Contact: Matthew Holm 602.506.7162



## MUTCD Proposed Changes

Andy Clarke of FHWA has released the following:

Several years of unheralded work by the dedicated members of a bicycle technical subcommittee of the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices culminated on Thursday, January 6 with the adoption by the full National Committee of a completely rewritten Part IX of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices covering signs and marking for bicycle facilities.

Their revised Part IX has been submitted to the Federal Highway Administration and recommended for adoption in place of the revisions proposed by FHWA in a June 24 Federal Register Notice.

The proposed changes to Part IX include:

- \* bringing the new AASHTO Guide and MUTCD into conformity;
- \* new bike lane signs and markings
- \* new Share the Road signs
- \* new loop detector markings for bicyclists
- \* variable-size signs for use on shared-use paths and a whole lot more.

Members of the technical committee members and they have put an extraordinary effort into creating a vastly improved Part IX. Now it's our turn to help by writing to FHWA in support of the NCUTCD proposed revisions to Part IX.

Compose your comments and suggestions in writing, and send them to:

Docket Clerk  
U.S. DOT Dockets  
Room PL-401  
400 Seventh Street SW  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Include a reference to Docket Number FHWA-1998-4720 in your cover letter. The deadline for comments is March 24, 2000!

Confused? Then visit <http://members.aol.com/rcmoeur/part9.html>

## **BIKE TO WORK WEEK** **APRIL 9-15**

### **February 2000**

#### **Public Meeting Schedule Continued**

The public meeting schedule is subject to change. Please call to confirm dates and times. For on-line information go to: [www.maricopa.gov](http://www.maricopa.gov).

#### **2.23.2000**

##### **Comp Plan 2000 Public Meeting District 4, Jan Brewer**

Location: West Valley Art Museum  
17420 N. Avenue of the Arts  
Surprise, AZ  
Time: 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
Contact: Matthew Holm 602.506.7162

#### **2.24.2000**

##### **115<sup>th</sup> Avenue/ MC85 – McDowell**

Road Widening Project  
Location: Littleton Elementary. Cafeteria  
1252 S. 115<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Cashion, AZ  
Time: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
MCDOT Contact: Sami Ayoub, 602.506.4662

#### **2.26.2000**

##### **Bartlett Lake Road/ Cave Creek to Horseshoe Dam**

Road Widening and Realignment  
Location: Bartlett Lake Marina  
Time: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
MCDOT Contact: Mike Marietti,  
602.506.4171

#### **2.28.2000**

##### **Comp Plan 2000 Public Meeting District 3, Andy Kunasek**

Location: New River Elementary  
48827 N. Black Canyon HWY  
New River, AZ  
Time: 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
Contact: Matthew Holm 602.506.7162

#### **3.1./2000**

##### **Comp Plan 2000 Public Meeting District 3, Andy Kunasek**

Location: 32<sup>nd</sup> Street/Union Hills Library  
Phoenix, AZ  
Time: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Contact: Matthew Holm 602.506.7162

Richard Moeur, one of the subcommittee members, has provided a helpful background document and a side by side comparison of FHWA's and NCUTCD's proposed changes to Part IX. You'll be able to see just how much better the next Manual will be.

You may see room for improvements in future editions, and that's OK. Right now, we need to support the proposed changes and identify those future improvements so the bicycle technical subcommittee can continue its terrific work.

I urge you to show them how much we appreciate their commitment. Please, write to FHWA today and support the NCUTCD's proposed revisions to Part IX of the MUTCD. *Andy Clarke*

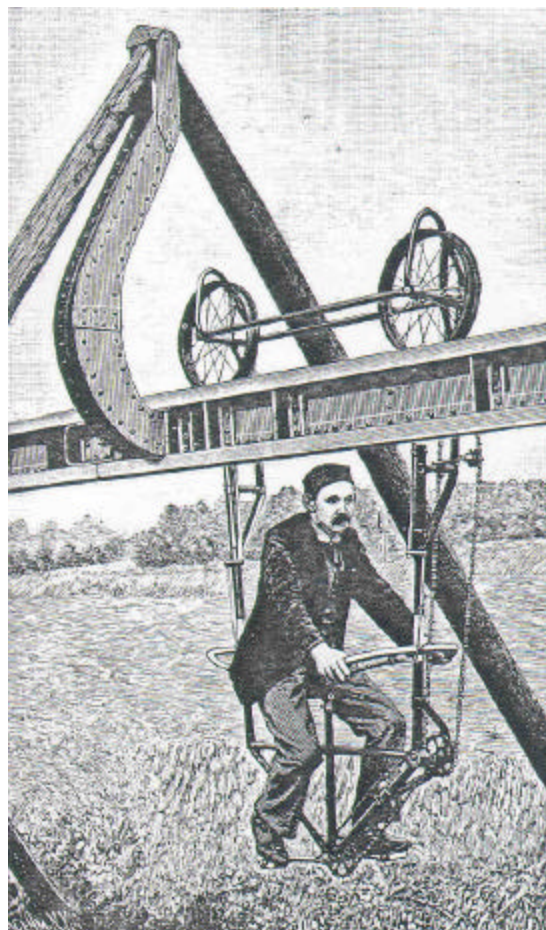
*Tim Oliver from MCDOT and Richard Moeur from ADOT are members of the MUTCD technical subcommittee.*

## Rutgers University professor finds that low-tech solutions work best at easing congestion

(American News Service)

A professor at Rutgers University and research director of a large transportation think tank, Reid Ewing says better synchronization of traffic lights is one of several simple steps that could make 21st-century road travel more bearable.

There's little doubt traffic congestion will increase in coming years, he says, and most high-tech approaches to reducing travel haven't panned out. He's betting that **bicycling**, walking, traffic calming and denser housing developments will prove the favorite tools of transport planners.



*An elevated monorail system could solve the Valley's congestion and air pollution problems.*

## Walking and Bicycling into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

“Creating an Off-Street Path System in an Urban Environment.”

April 25-26, 2000

Tempe Mission Palms Hotel

Cost: \$88

To receive a registration packet (mailed out in February 2000), please call Maureen DeCindis at Valley Metro 602.534.1814 or e-mail [mdecindis@vm.maricopa.gov](mailto:mdecindis@vm.maricopa.gov) and leave your name and address. Sponsors: ADOT, FHWA, MAG, RPTA

The MCDOT Bicycle Web Site is located at:

<http://www.mcdot.maricopa.gov/Planning/Management%20Systems/bicycle.html>

## ADHS Declares an Epidemic of Sedentary Lifestyle

A recent national health survey ranked Arizona dead last in physical activity.

According to the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS), the percentage of Arizonans who are physically active has decreased from 76.3% in 1994 to 48.7% in 1998. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ranked Arizona last for its percentage of adults who reported leisure time physical activity. West Virginia, Oklahoma and Kentucky fared only slightly better, with 56.3%, 57% and 57.3% active adults respectively. Utah showed the highest percentage of adults who are physically active (82.9%). The national average is 70.9%.

According to Dr. Timothy Flood, medical director for the ADHS Bureau of Public Health Statistics, an epidemic is defined as an unexpected and marked increase in a disease or risk factor for disease. "The data from the recent survey clearly indicate that Arizona is in the midst of an epidemic of sedentary lifestyle that will lead to chronic disease in the future and may seriously impact the health of our state's residents. Taxpayers, employers and HMOs will eventually have to pay for the chronic diseases linked to the high level of physical inactivity among Arizonans."

*Ed.- Dr. Flood and I talked about this survey before he issued the alert. My concern was that if I'm out riding my bike, I'm not at home to take part in the survey. The people at home watching TV or wandering the web are less likely to be exercising. The flaw in my theory is that the 1994 data would have been equally affected. Assuming the survey methods were the same, the drastic change is alarming.*

## Bike Plan Presentation



If you would like a presentation given to your group on the Maricopa County Bicycle Transportation System Plan, contact Reed Kempton at 602.506.1630. A PowerPoint slide show has been put together to explain the background, goals, and policies that make up the document that was approved by the Board of Supervisors in 1999.

### *On your left!*

I would like to thank all those who sent comments and suggestions on the first issue of *MCDOT By-Cycle*. Beginning with this issue, the newsletter will be put on our web site and I will send out only an announcement. I will also put the entire list in the BCC box so that no one else gets your e-mail address from me. I apologize for any inconvenience that I may have caused last month with the attached file. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe, send a message to [reedkempton@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:reedkempton@mail.maricopa.gov).

Meanwhile, if you're one of the 45,000 cyclists riding to work every day in Maricopa County, wave when we meet on the road.

*Reed*